

Safety On The Road

Pay Attention In Parking Areas

*A slow speed
accident
in a parking lot
can still
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or serious
injuries.*

Don't relax your defensive driving skills when you pull into a parking lot. A low speed accident in a parking lot can still cause death or serious injuries, not to mention plenty of property damage.

Parking lots are typically crowded with drivers and pedestrians moving in many directions and not paying much attention to the traffic around them. Some are unsure who has the right-of-way, most are thinking about something else and everyone is trying to get the best parking spot. So it is up to you to watch what is going on around you to avoid collisions.

To enter a parking lot, check traffic movement around you and wait for a clear space to make your turn. If you cross a sidewalk to enter the lot, watch for pedestrians.

Choose the correct lane for your direction of travel. It may be difficult to tell if a lane is one-way or two-way, so watch for signs and pavement markings.

Travel at the posted speed limit for the lot, and adjust your speed downward for crowded conditions, poor visibility and winter conditions.

Use your directional signal lights to indicate turns. Use hand or light signals when maneuvering into a space.

There may be a system of color designations for different types of parking. For example, red may mean no stopping, standing or parking. Yellow may mean stopping only for loading and unloading. Green may indicate limited time parking.

Park only in designated parking stalls appropriate for the size and type of your vehicle. When snow is piled up in winter, keep in mind parking stalls and lanes will be narrower than usual.

If possible, pull through to the stall in front of you so you can depart without backing up.

Do not block traffic lanes, fire hydrant or emergency vehicle areas.

To reduce your chances of vehicle damage, center your vehicle between the lines in the parking stall. Do not overlap into a second space. Do not park at the end of aisles. Stay away from popular parking spots where vehicles will be fighting for position.

Look both ways before opening your door to get out because another vehicle may be pulling into the empty spot beside you. Pedestrians must also look out for their own safety in parking lots and parking garages. Be aware all the time of vehicles which are moving or about to move.

Watch for turn signals and brake lights on vehicles. Stick to pedestrian traffic lanes and sidewalks whenever possible. Do not walk too closely to parked cars – give the driver a chance to see you. Do not assume drivers see you, and do not expect them to stop for you.

Slow down and pay attention as you maneuver your vehicle through a parking area. Fender benders are a nuisance, but much more serious accidents can occur in parking areas.

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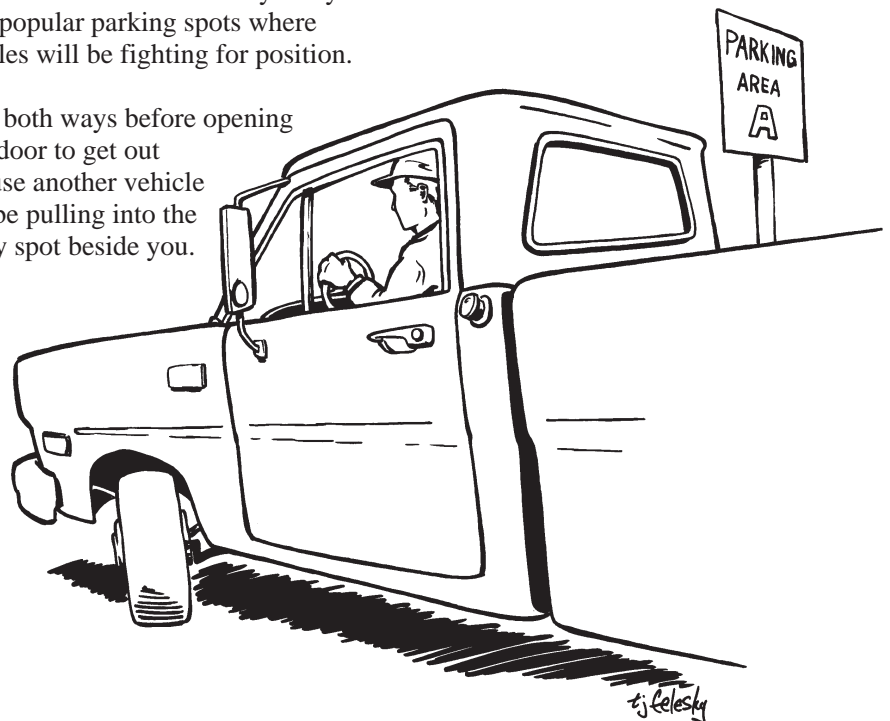
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